

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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R 031555Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6667

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, LI, NI, RH, SF

SUBJECT: TOLBERT VISIT TO NIGERIA

REF: (A) MONROVIA 6279, (B) MONROVIA 6242 (C) LAGOS 19909

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1. LIBERIA'S PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND 22-MAN RETINUE FINALLY ARRIVED IN LAGOS SEPTEMBER 2 ABOARD FMG EXECUTIVE JET. TOLBERT WELCOMED AT AIRPORT BY EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA, WAS EXPOSED BRIEFLY TO PRESS (DURING WHICH INTERVIEW NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE REVEALED), AND THEN WAS WHISKED OFF BY HELICOPTER TO DODAN BARRACKS TO MEET OBASANJO.

2. AT DINNER HELD IN TOLBERT'S HONOR SAME EVENING, NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE GAVE IMPASSIONED SPEECH ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IN WHICH MAJOR THEMES OF NOW STANDARD FMG LITANY TROTTED OUT. OBASANJO PAID STIRRING TRIBUTE TO FALLEN FREEDOM FIGHTER "MARTYRS" AND REITERATED NIGERIA'S COMPLETE COMMITMENT TO AIDING CAUSE. HE EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER "SO CALLED CIVILIZED WORLD" SHOWING LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR "MASSACRES" IN MOZAMBIQUE AND "AZANIA" WHILE EXPRESSING HORROR AT EXECUTION OF MERCENARIES IN ANGOLA. IN VIEW OF "PRESENT WAVE OF MURDERS, TORTURE, REPRESSION AND ARRESTS" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, OBASANJO ASSERTED THAT ALL HOPE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT MUST BE ABANDONED -- "THE ONLY DIALOGUE RACISTS UNDERSTAND IS THAT OF FORCE." NIGERIAN LEADER MADE SPECIAL PLEA TO LIBERIA TO JOIN IN ASSISTING LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

3. OBASANJO ALSO PUT IN A PLUG FOR ECOWAS, STRESSING NEED FOR WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS AND RESOURCES IN ORDER REALIZE THEIR OPTIMUM INDIVIDUAL POTENTIALS. LIBERIA COMPLIMENTED ON ITS "ENTHUSIASM" FOR ECOWAS SUCCESS.

4. COMMENT. WE SO FAR HAVE NO NEWS ON ANY COMMUNIQUE STEMMING FROM MEETINGS BUT AGREE WITH MONROVIA THAT ECOWAS PROBABLY ONE OF MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED. NEWS ARTICLE TODAY INDICATES TOLBERT MAKING PITCH FOR SITING ECOWAS HEADQUARTERS IN MONROVIA. WE ALSO THINK IT LIKELY THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH TOLBERT (AND EYADEMA) ARE PART OF FMG EFFORT TO DEVELOP A COMMON PROGRAM OF REACTION TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
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